

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
Olympia, Washington**

**To:** Ambulance Providers  
ITA Providers  
Managed Care Plans

**Memorandum No. 05-02 MAA  
Issued: January 11, 2005**

**For Information Call: 1-800-562-6188**

**From:** Doug Porter, Assistant Secretary  
Medical Assistance Administration

**Subject: Ground and Air Ambulance Medical Transportation Program and Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Program: Policy and Rate Changes**

**Effective for dates of service on and after February 1, 2005**, the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) is implementing policy and rate changes for ambulance services, consistent with the changes to chapter 388-546 WAC adopted in August 2004.

## **What has changed?**

Major changes to the *Ground and Air Ambulance Medical Transportation Program Billing Instructions* include:

- Clarifying eligibility for ambulance services;
- Increasing base rates for ground ambulance services (see note, below);
- Establishing a process for considering exception to rule requests for nonemergency hospital transfers;
- Clarifying ambulance coverage out-of-state and out-of-country;
- Clarifying policy regarding coordination of benefits for ambulance services;
- Requiring a Physician Certification Statement (PCS) for nonemergency ground ambulance services;
- Incorporating the *Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Billing Instructions* into these billing instructions; and
- Renaming the newly revised billing instructions: *Ambulance and Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Billing Instructions*.

These changes are reflected in the new *Ambulance and Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Billing Instructions*, dated February 2005.



**Note:** The rates for ambulance services remain at the January 1, 2003, levels, except for the ground ambulance base rates. The ground ambulance base rates went up because three procedure codes (oxygen supplies/administration, IV supplies/administration, and waiting time) were eliminated, and the expenditures associated with these services were rolled into the appropriate base rates.

## **Billing Instructions Replacement Pages**

**Effective February 1, 2005**, MAA's *Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Billing Instructions*, dated October 2003, is being updated and incorporated into MAA's new *Ambulance and Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Billing Instructions*, dated February 2005.

### **How can I get MAA's provider issuances (including MAA's new *Ambulance and Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Transportation Billing Instructions*)?**

To view and download MAA's numbered memoranda and billing instructions electronically, visit MAA's website at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov> (select the *Billing Instructions/Numbered Memoranda* link).

To obtain DSHS/HRSA provider numbered memoranda and billing instruction, go to the DSHS/HRSA website at <http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov> (click *the Billing Instructions and Numbered Memorandum* link). These may be downloaded and printed.